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COUNTRY Germany (French Zone)

SUBJECT Oficomex

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SUPPLEMENT

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 letter of 13 October 1978 from the
 Director of Central Intelligence to the
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 Review Date: 2008

25X1X6 1. In spite of announcements made some time ago by the French, no real changes towards granting more authority to the German governments and economy in export matters had occurred up to the end of September 1947. A promise to German officials that Oficomex would handle only big import and export business and leave the German economy a free hand in smaller affairs had not materialized, and Oficomex continued to exercise strict and exclusive control over all exports.

25X1X6 2. [REDACTED] Oficomex services were extended to South America, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, and other countries, and the consumption of foreign currencies increased correspondingly. Exportation of production from the Württemberg shoe and leather industry continued under the former methods to the above-named countries and Switzerland. To the latter, for example, shoes are sold at a wholesale rate of 30 Swiss francs a pair, of which the German producers received 11 RM; the remainder is absorbed by Oficomex.

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3. In addition [REDACTED] the French authorities notified the Württemberg government at the end of September 1947 that it had to supply sixteen million marks to make up an Oficomex deficit.

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4. [REDACTED] at a conference on 29 September 1947 between the director of Oficomex and the ministers of economy of the French Zone Lands, after termination of the official business the director unofficially stated that the French government intended to render the French Zone economically independent of the rest of Germany as soon as possible. He promised that the French Zone in cooperation with France would profit from the Marshall Plan.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The attitude of the Oficomex director appears to be the result of a conference with French journalist André Fribourg.

5. The French have directed the German governments of the French Zone Lands to establish Provincial Councils for Export Matters (Provinzialräte für Ausfuhrfragen); one is already in existence

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in Baden-Baden. These councils are supposed to have a voice and some freedom of action on French Zone imports and exports. Source 2 states that the French plan to allow some foreign currency from exports to French Zone Lands. Dollar credits for Baden and Württemberg are supposed to be guaranteed by Swiss firms as intermediaries.

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